

CITY OF DUBLIN PERFINS

by Nora K. Wright.

The perfin of the City of Dublin used by the Dublin Corporation was very attractive. Look first at the history of the Coat of Arms of the City. It was first granted in 1607 to the municipal authority, Dublin Corporation by Daniel Molyneu, Ulster King-of-Arms and Principal Herald of All Ireland. This 17th century blazon incorporates three castles of Dublin, each one bearing three battlement towers from which flames can be seen leaping, symbolising the zeal of the people in defending the City. The castles are borne on a shield which is supported by two female figures. To the left is one representing Law, holding a sword erect in one hand and in the other an olive branch. To the right the figure is representing Justice, likewise holding an olive branch in one hand and in the other a pair of scales. At their feet and beneath the shield are groups of flowers symbolising Hope and Joy. The coat of arms is completed by the City's motto; "Obedientia Civium Urbis Felicitas", 'Happy the City where the people obey'.



These Arms can be found on Municipal buildings, benches, lamp-posts, litter bins and in mosaic form in the floor of the Rotunda and City Hall.

A modified form of the coat of arms which consists of a shield bearing the device of the three castles is seen on all public notices issued by Dublin Corporation and it is this design which they adopted for their perfin.

This attractive perfin came into use circa 1887-88.

Die 1



There were so many holes in this die, and if, as it so often happened the perfin was not carefully applied there was great difficulty in separating the stamps. However, in spite of this the design remained in use for about 21 years. This die was withdrawn and die 2 was introduced, which consisted of the three castles without the shield.

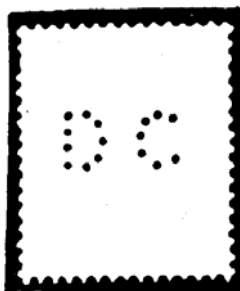
Die 2



It is found on KE.VII and KG.V stamps, and also on the Irish overprints on KG.V stamps of 1922, when Ireland became a Free State. The design continued on the Irish definitives and commemoratives.

These two dies can also be found on covers bearing Q. Victoria, KE.VII and KG.V stamps with the identity of one of the various Municipal Departments such as Improvement Committee, Health, Lord Mayor, Town Clerk's Office, Technical schools, Libraries, etc. The covers bear the embossed Municipal Seal on the back flap.

It was sad when this distinctive die was withdrawn and replaced by die 3 which consisted of the letters DC.



Die 3.

This design was used on Irish definitives and commemoratives into the early 70's when meter marks were gradually introduced into the various departments.

Dublin celebrates its millennium in 1988. What a pity its perfin is now obsolete.

One cover which I keep sometimes in my perfin collection and other times in my "Ireland and her Troubles" collection. It bears a K.E.VII 1d stamp with City of Dublin perfin die 1.

It has the identity of the City of Dublin improvements Committee. The address is written in the Irish Language. This evidently annoyed a postal official who defaced the cover by writing 'Rot' several times on it. On the top left hand side another post office clerk has written '((Illegal act at GPO defacing letters))' and added his initials. The address has also been translated into English.

